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ROYAL BURGH OF RUTHERGLEN



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1956

BY

NAIRN R. COWAN,

B.Sc. M.D., D.P.H., D.I.H



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Public Health Department,
Rutherglen.

August, 1957.

To the Provost, Magistrates and Councillors
of the Royal Burgh of Rutherglen, and to
the Department of Health for Scotland.

Mrs Hastie and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Royal Burgh of Rutherglen. The mortality rate for pulmonary tuberculosis remains low. There have been no epidemics of special significance although there has been an increase over the previous year in the cases of whooping cough.

The Health Centre for Older People functions smoothly and over 900 individual patients have received attention to their clinical and medico-social needs.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all members of the Town Council and in particular to the Convener and Members of the Health Committee for their constant support and interest; to other officials; and to the staff of the Public Health and Welfare Departments.

I am, Mrs Hastie and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

NAIRN R. COWAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1956

VITAL STATISTICS

Area of the Burgh	1,186 acres
Population estimated to middle of 1956	24,633
Density of Population per acre	20.8

	Corrected Numbers	Rate per 1000 of Estimated Population
Live Births (including Illegitimate)	436	17.7
Live Births (Illegitimate)	11	2.5 (a)
Still-births	8	18 (b)
Deaths—		
All Causes	327	13.3 (d)
Tuberculosis (all forms)	6	0.24
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	6	0.24
Principal Epidemic Diseases	3	0.12
Children under one year	12	28 (c)
Children under one month	9	21 (c)
Maternal deaths	—	—

(a) Rate per 100 live births.

(b) Rate per 1,000 total births (including still-births).

(c) Rate per 1,000 live births.

(d) Rate adjusted for age and sex distribution is 12.8.

POPULATION

The estimated population of 24,633 shows an increase of 200 in relation to last year's figure. The natural increase of population is 109.

BIRTHS

The number of births corrected for transfer was 436, of which 219 were males and 217 were females. The corresponding birth rate of 17.7 may be compared with the rate of 19.8 for the large burghs.

Illegitimacy.—The number of illegitimate births in 1956 was 11, giving a rate of 2.5.

Still-Births.—Still-births numbered 8, giving a still-birth rate of 18.

The still-birth rates for the past seven years were as follows:—

1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
26	34	38	21	29	18	21

MARRIAGE RATE

224 marriages took place in the Burgh during the year, giving a rate of 9.1 per thousand of the population.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The infantile mortality rate was 28 and the rates for the previous five years were:—

1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
26	27	20	30	34

The causes of these deaths were:—

	Male	Female
Congenital malformations	1	1
Birth injuries, post-natal asphyxia and atelectasis	3	2
Diseases peculiar to infancy	2	1
Pneumonia	—	1
Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	—
	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>

DEATHS

In 1956 the total number of deaths registered in the Burgh was 192. There remains to be added 153 deaths of Burgh residents occurring in institutions and elsewhere outwith the Burgh, and to deduct 18 deaths registered in the Burgh of non-Burgh residents. This gives a corrected total of 327 deaths made up of 170 males and 157 females. The death rate adjusted for age and sex distribution was 12.8.

The causes of death classified according to the systems affected were as follows:—

Diseases of Circulatory System (Heart and blood vessels)	130
Diseases of the Nervous System	56
Malignant Tumours	50
Diseases of the Respiratory System, including Tuberculosis	34
Violence	15
Diseases of the Digestive System	11
Diseases of the Genito-Urinary System	4

The incidence of deaths by violence is high. Five were due to suicide, two to motor vehicle accidents, and the remainder to other causes of violence.

MATERNAL DEATHS

There were no maternal deaths in the Burgh during 1956.

CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS and CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE

The Clinics provided by the Local Health Authority and the work undertaken are as follows:—

A—Ante-natal and Post-natal Service.

	Ante-natal	Post-natal
(1) Number of Clinics provided at the end of the year whether held at Child Welfare Clinic or other premises	1	1
(2) Number of Clinics provided by voluntary bodies	—	—
(3) Number of women who attended at the Clinics during the year	284	93
(4) Total number of attendances made by women during the year	1083	105

The ante-natal, post-natal, and gynæcological clinics continue to function once each week within the clinic premises, and are conducted jointly by the Medical Officer of Health and an obstetrician and gynæcologist of the Lanark County Area Obstetrical and Gynæcological Service. The arrangement whereby the general practitioners carry out most of the ante-natal care of their own patients is highly satisfactory. The clinic sessions are staffed by the Health Visitors and District Midwives.

Unmarried mothers are dealt with at these clinics with the utmost discretion, and they do not require to wait their turn. Where adoption procedures are contemplated the individual patient is introduced to the responsible officer.

Mothercraft training takes place once each week within the clinic premises, but the extent to which it is used by those who would benefit by instruction is disappointingly small.

The local health authority purchases maternity outfits from the Regional Hospital Board, and these are given routinely to those having home confinements. In 1956, 125 were issued.

B—Child Welfare Clinics.

(1) Number of Clinics provided by the Local Health Authority	1
(2) Number of Clinics provided by voluntary bodies	—

- (3) Number of children attending the clinic during the year and who on the date of their first attendance were:—

(a) Under 1 year of age	.....	526
(b) Over 1 year of age	.....	133

- (4) Total number of attendances made during the year by children who at the time of attendance were:—

(a) Under 1 year of age	.....	3685
(b) Over 1 year of age	.....	558

Note:—"Clinics" means Clinic premises, not sessions.

Ultra-Violet Light Clinic.—This clinic has been well attended throughout the year, and the total number of attendances was 513

Facilities provided for child welfare are as follows:—

- (i) Two clinic sessions are held each week for the purpose of general child welfare.
- (ii) One clinic session is held each week for the purpose of vaccination and immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough. Further clinic sessions are held as required for B.C.G. vaccination of contacts of tuberculous cases and others. Additional clinic sessions are held for the purpose of poliomyelitis vaccination. The number of children vaccinated was 127.

Welfare Foods

The distribution of welfare foods for the year has been as follows:—

National Dried Milk—

Full Cream	.....	33,874 tins
Half Cream	.....	482 tins
Orange Juice	.....	24,827 bottles
Cod Liver Oil	.....	4,748 bottles
Vitamin A and D	.....	1,296 packets

The experience gained in the distribution of Welfare Foods in 1956 compared with earlier years shows a slight but not significant decrease in the uptake of these foods. It is not possible to assess the decline in the use of the Welfare Foods by the people resident within the Burgh because this welfare Distribution Centre supplies adjacent areas of the County of Lanark and Glasgow. It would seem, however, that there is a falling off, possibly not of significant degree, in the use of these foods.

C—Dental Care.

The numbers treated during the year are shown in the following table:—

	No. Inspected by Dental Officer during the year.	No. found to require treatment during the year.	No. accepting treatment during the year.	No. actually treated by Dental Officer during the year.
Expectant Mothers	12	11	11	12
Nursing Mothers	39	36	33	44
Pre-school children	102	60	54	79

D—Mother and Baby Homes.

No provision of this nature is available in the Burgh.

E—Day Nurseries.

The Local Health Authority provides one Day Nursery, namely, the Rutherglen Children's Nursery, 41 Chapel Street, Rutherglen, the details of which are as follows:—

(1) The Day Nursery is not approved for training.

(2) Number of approved places:—

(a) 0-2 years of age 6

(b) 2-5 years of age 30

(3) Number of children on register at end of year:—

(a) 0-2 years of age 5

(b) 2-5 years of age 31

(4) Average daily attendance during year:—

(a) 0-2 years of age 4

(b) 2-5 years of age 26

(5) Waiting list at end of year:—

(a) 0-2 years of age 21

(b) 2-5 years of age 52

The total number of attendances for the year was 7,184, an increase of 969 from last year's figure.

The children receive orange juice and cod liver oil daily.

Within the nursery the following infectious diseases occurred:
16 cases of measles in February and March.

1 case of German measles in September.

3 cases of dysentery in November (2 removed to hospital).

The Medical Officer of Health visited the Nursery regularly and carried out 240 medical examinations of the children.

The scale of charges remains the same. Eleven children left during the year to go to school on reaching the age of 5 years.

F—Residential Nurseries.

There is no residential nursery in the Burgh.

G—Nurseries and Child-Minders Regulation Act, 1948.

With regard to Nursery Premises, one certificate was in force at the end of the year. The number of children under 5 years being cared for was 9.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE

1. Total number of births occurring in Rutherglen Burgh during the year—before correction for mother's residence:—

Live Births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	108
Still-births	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
						<hr/>
						109
						<hr/>

2. Number of births in (1) occurring in institutions (including private maternity homes)—Nil.
3. Total number of births in (1) occurring at home—109.
4. Number of births in (3) classified to show nature of attendance at birth:—

- (a) Cases dealt with under Section (23) (2) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947, by midwives employed by the Authority (including those engaged on a fee-per-case basis):—

(i) Where doctor was engaged and present at
confinement 15

(ii) Where doctor was engaged and not present
at confinement 94

109

- (b) Other domiciliary cases:—

(i) Doctor and midwife engaged —

(ii) Midwife alone (no doctor engaged) —

109

There are no midwives working in the Burgh employed by Voluntary Organisations under arrangements made by the Authority, or employed by any Hospital Boards of Management under arrangements made by the Authority with the Regional Hospital Board.

5. Medical Aid.

- (a) No midwife had to summon medical aid during the year under Section 14(1) of the Midwives (Scotland) Act, 1951.
- (b) No. of cases in which medical aid was summoned during the year by a midwife where the Medical Practitioner had agreed to provide the patient with maternity services under the National Health Service (i.e., cases for which no fee was payable by the Local Health Authority) 10

6. Administration of Analgesics.

Gas and
Air Trilene

- (a) No. of midwives in practice in the area qualified to administer analgesia in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives' Board for Scotland 3 1
- (i) No. in (a) employed on local health authority work 3 1
- (ii) No. in (a) not employed on local health authority work — —
- (b) Number of domiciliary midwives who received their training during the year — —
- (c) Number of sets of apparatus for the administration of gas and air in use by domiciliary midwives in the area at 31st December, 1956 1 —
- (d) No. of cases in which analgesia was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year (including cases attended by hospital midwives undertaking domiciliary cases):—
- (i) When doctor was not present at delivery 70 —
- (ii) When doctor was present at delivery 15 —
- (e) Number of cases in which pethidine was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year (including cases attended by hospital midwives undertaking domiciliary cases):—
- (i) When doctor was not present at delivery 68
- (ii) When doctor was present at delivery 15
7. No. of cars in use by midwives at 31st December, 1956 Nil

VISITATIONS BY HEALTH VISITORS DURING 1956

During the year the number of visits made by the Health Visitors, who are all employed by the Local Authority, was as follows:—

	Number Visited	Total Visits
1. Expectant mothers	219	409
2. Children under one year of age ...	503	2898
3. Children (1-5 years)	1294	6114
4. Tuberculosis cases	403	646
5. Other cases:—		
(a) Visits to infectious cases ...	118	240
(b) Visits in relation to old People, housing, home helps, etc.	182	841
(c) Post-natal visits	429	899
Total number of visits		<u>12,047</u>

Five Health Visitors serve the Burgh, and work under the guidance of a Supervisor of Health Visitors, who is also responsible for the Home Help Service.

Visitations are made to homes where there are:—

- (1) Expectant and nursing mothers.
- (2) Young children.
- (3) Families in which there is tuberculosis.
- (4) Families in which there is a case of infectious disease.
- (5) Elderly people.

The Health Visitors may visit any person at the request of a general practitioner and the liaison with hospitals is effective through the almoners.

HOME NURSING

The local health authority employs three Queen's Nurses who act as district nurse midwives. Excluding their midwifery duties, the district nurses in their capacity as home nurses attended 351 cases, of whom 180, or 51%, were people over the age of 65 years. The total number of visits paid by the nurses to these cases was 8,670. A significant part of nursing is directed to the aged long term sick in their own homes. The extent to which the nurses give injections is considerable — 6,014 injections were given during the year.

DOMESTIC HELP

1.	Number of Domestic Helps employed at the end of the year	25
	(a) Whole-time	2
	(b) Part-time	23
	(c) Retaining fee basis	—
2.	Number of cases for which Helps were provided during the year	102
3.	Number of cases in (2) provided on account of confinement:—	
	(a) At home	11
	(b) In hospital	6
4.	Number of cases in (2) provided on account of illness of short duration	25
5.	Number of elderly persons in (2) provided with Helps	60
6.	Average period of assistance	31 days

The Domestic Help Scheme provides for:—

- (i) Maternity Cases—
 - (a) before confinement (on a medical certificate).
 - (b) confinement at home.
 - (c) after confinement in hospital (on a medical certificate)
- (ii) Cases of illness of mother or housewife.
- (iii) Elderly persons who are ill, or are unable to provide adequate care and attention for themselves.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Vaccination.

1.	Number of persons primarily vaccinated during the year:—	
	(a) Typical vaccinia greatest at 7th-10th day	198
	(b) Accelerated (vaccinoid) reaction	9
	(c) Reaction greatest at 2nd-3rd day	2
	(d) No local reaction	28
2.	Number of persons re-vaccinated during the year:—	
	(a) Typical vaccinia greatest at 7th-10th day	65
	(b) Accelerated (vaccinoid) reaction, 5th-7th day	54
	(c) Reaction greatest at 2nd-3rd day	23
	(d) No local reaction	20

The number of persons primarily vaccinated during 1956 was 237. Of that number 228 were pre-school children, of whom 132 were infants. The number of persons re-vaccinated during the year was 162.

Immunisation.

Number of children under 5 years immunised in 1956	304
Estimated percentage of pre-school children protected	87%
Number of children given 3rd (maintenance) injection	169

The vaccination and diphtheria immunisation campaign continued during the year. Lectures, posters, leaflets, etc., were used as a means of publicity, but the greatest importance was attached to the intensive visiting of children in one to five years age group by the Health Visitors. When an infant attained the age of eight months the parent received a letter offering immunisation free and pointing out the great value of the procedure. A further letter was sent for all immunised children to receive a reinforcing injection before going to school at the age of five years. Arrangements were provided for immunisation against whooping cough.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Whooping cough shows an increase in notification from 84 for 1955 to 92. There were no significant epidemics, but information is lacking concerning the non-notifiable diseases. It is known that during the year there was a fair incidence of chickenpox, mumps, and measles.

During the year there were no cases of diphtheria, smallpox, enteric fever, or poliomyelitis.

The following infectious diseases were notified:—

CEREBRO SPINAL FEVER — 3 cases were notified and 3 were admitted to hospital

DYSENTERY—12 cases were notified and 6 were admitted to hospital.

ERYSIPELAS—7 cases were notified and 2 were admitted to hospital.

PNEUMONIA — Of 47 cases notified 35 were admitted to hospital.

PUERPERAL FEVER—One case was notified and admitted to hospital.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA—2 cases were notified and admitted to hospital.

SCARLET FEVER—Of 24 cases notified 13 were admitted to hospital.

WHOOPIING COUGH—Of 92 cases notified only one was admitted to hospital.

TABLE 1
Monthly Incidence of Infectious Diseases, 1956

DISEASE	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	3	5	—	12
Erysipelas ...	2	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	7
Pneumonia ...	7	3	4	2	5	2	2	3	7	2	6	4	47
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever ...	3	6	3	3	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	3	24
Whooping Cough ...	—	2	2	3	—	7	10	12	17	19	12	8	92
TOTAL ...	13	12	10	10	11	10	16	16	26	25	23	16	188

TUBERCULOSIS

TABLE 2

Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis, 1891-1956

	Number of Deaths	Mortality Rate per 1000 of Population
1891 - 1895	173	2.74
1896 - 1900	145	2.02
1901 - 1905	116	1.39
1906 - 1910	132	1.15
1911 - 1915	114	0.89
1916 - 1920	111	0.81
1921 - 1925	89	0.72
1926 - 1930	110	0.72
1931 - 1935	85	0.66
1936 - 1940	89	0.53
1941 - 1945	85	0.72
1946 - 1950	92	0.73
1951 - 1955	39	0.30

The mortality rate for the Burgh in 1956 was 0.24.

TABLE 3

Number of Cases Confirmed as Suffering from Tuberculosis—1956

		AGE GROUPS										
		Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 55	55 and under 65	65 and upwards	Total	
Respiratory:												
Males	—	1	8	8	1	4	3	1	1	27	
Females	—	1	—	3	2	2	2	—	—	10	
Total	—	2	8	11	3	6	5	1	1	37	
Non-Respiratory:												
Males	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	
Females	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	
Total	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	3	

At the end of 1956 there were 467 persons on the tuberculosis register, and of that number 409 suffered from respiratory tuberculosis.

The distribution of new cases of tuberculosis over the various wards in the Burgh during the year 1956 is shown in Table 4.

TABLE 4

Wards	Respiratory Tuberculosis	Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis
Castle	4	—
Crosshill	10	—
Gallowflat	4	3
Greenhill	2	—
Shawfield	8	—
Stonelaw	9	—
	<hr/> 37	<hr/> 3

The number of respiratory cases resident in the Burgh who received treatment in sanatoria or other institutions during the year is shown in Table 5.

TABLE 5

	In Hospital on January 1	Admitted during the year	Discharged during the year	Died in Hospital †	In Hospital on December 31
Under 15 years					
Male	—	5	3	—	2
Female	1	—	1	—	—
15-45 years					
Male	15	20	23	1	11
Female	15	12	19	—	8
45 years and over					
Male	9	7	12	1	3
Female	1	2	2	—	1
Total	41	46	60	2	25

Seven non-respiratory patients were in sanatoria at the beginning of 1956, 5 were admitted during the year, 5 were discharged and 1 died, so that 6 were still in on 31st December, 1956.

B. C. G.

During the year 13 male and 8 female contacts of tuberculous cases were vaccinated with B.C.G. Twenty-seven male and 25 female babies were vaccinated at birth. One hundred and thirty-six school children were dealt with under the school B.C.G. programme. The incidence of positive Heaf tests in the latter group was 38%.

CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Visitations by Health Visitors	646
Attendances at Dispensary	984
Patients granted free milk	71

Health Visitors carry out a comprehensive scheme of home visitations. This year 646 visits were paid to tuberculosis households. These visits are carried out regularly by the staff and their advice and help is always available to meet any problems which may arise.

Necessary equipment is made available permanently, or by way of loan.

Extra nourishment amounting to 1 pint of milk per day for active cases of pulmonary tuberculosis is provided. There is no hard and fast rule as to length of time an individual continues to receive milk, but in general the issue of milk stops when the tuberculous process ceases to be active, and the sputum is negative for tubercle bacilli.

There is a special housing list for those suffering from tuberculosis.

Care of Spastics and Epileptics

This department is aware of 5 people suffering from cerebral palsy, and 12 who are epileptics. Six of the epileptics, and all the spastic cases, are of school age. All the cases which were investigated required no help from this department.

Prevention of Break-up of Family Life

In the endeavour to prevent the break-up of families, and to promote the health of the children, the Health Visitors work in close liaison with the Children's Officer, and the aid is enlisted where necessary of home helps, general practitioners, National Assistance Board, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Education Authority, and the Women's Voluntary Services.

Convalescent Home Provision

The Local Health Authority is a subscriber to a number of Convalescent Homes. This permits the Medical Officer of Health to give those who are in need, a fortnight's holiday free of cost to themselves. This arrangement is most satisfactory and has been used especially in relation to the aged.

Chiropody Service

A chiropody service is provided by the Local Health Authority for people over pensionable age, that is, men over 65 and women over 60 years. The chiropodist is employed on a part-time basis and is paid according to the Whitley Council Scale of Remuneration. Four or five 3-hour sessions are conducted each week as required and at the present time this just meets the demand.

As far as the aged are concerned, a chiropody service within their means is a necessity.

A nominal charge of 1/6 is made for each visit but there is no means test and if an old person states that he cannot pay the charge the Medical Officer of Health may waive the 1/6 wholly or in part. Those who wish to do so may pay more than the 1/6.

THE HEALTH OF OLDER PEOPLE

The age, sex and marital status of the first 900 people to attend the Consultative Health Centre is as follows:—

Age Group	Married		Widow(er)		Single		Separated		Divorced		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
55-59	13	10	1	5	1	0	0	1	0	0	15	16
60-64	48	37	6	21	9	18	1	1	0	1	64	78
65-69	79	45	23	51	7	17	2	1	0	1	111	115
70-74	76	38	34	52	8	15	1	1	0	1	119	107
75-79	50	11	29	48	7	12	3	0	0	0	89	71
80-84	14	6	33	28	6	7	0	0	0	0	53	41
85 & more	1	2	9	5	0	2	1	1	0	0	11	10
	281	149	135	210	38	71	8	5	0	3	462	438

Of the 900, 305 (34%) presented themselves with no physical complaints, while for the remaining 595 the complaints were as follows:—

COMPLAINT	Male	Female	Total
PAIN in—Joints	37	51	88
Limbs	31	30	61
Chest	32	22	54
Back	14	13	27
Abdomen	13	10	23
Feet	8	4	12
Neck	0	9	9
Head	4	5	9
Breathlessness on exertion	64	51	115
Weakness—General	28	55	83
Limbs	5	5	10
Giddiness	21	19	40
Cough with expectoration	9	6	15
Frequency of micturition	7	5	12
Miscellaneous	16	21	37
	289	306	595

Pain was the commonest complaint followed by breathlessness on exertion, weakness and giddiness. The illnesses most frequent encountered came within the category of diseases of the cardiovascular system followed by osteoarthritis and anæmia.

No less important than the physical problems of older people is the psychological aspects of ageing. It is an urgent necessity to possess more information concerning the influence of ageing on personality, emotion, the flexibility of adjustment to new situations, learning, memory and motives, with the correlation of these factors to the culture and environment in which the people live. An attempt is being made to find an answer to some of these questions by psychological assessment of the patients passing through the Centre. This investigation is being conducted in collaboration with the Department of Psychology of the University of Glasgow and the Department of Psychological Research of the Crichton Royal Mental Hospital, Dumfries.

HEALTH EDUCATION

The methods employed in dealing with health education continue on the lines of previous years. Talks on health were given to local organisations, some being arranged through the Scottish Council for Health Education, while others were given by the Medical Officer of Health or other members of the Health Department.

Mothers' Club

This club has now been running for 5 years. The planning and success of the enterprise is due to a small committee chosen each year by the mothers and assisted by the Superintendent Health Visitor.

Meetings are held in the evenings once a fortnight—21 meetings were held with an average attendance of 45.

Topics included Road Safety, Home Baking, Circus Life (all with relevant films), Homogenised Baby Foods, Skin Care, and other health subjects. There was the favourite "Discussion Night" when family problems were discussed and compared; also a display of handiwork.

A group of members produced two one-act plays for their own entertainment, and a Bring and Buy Sale enabled them to give a donation to the local Cancer Research Fund.

A visit was made to the Glasgow City Chambers and the evening bus run and seasonal parties took care of the social activities.

There is no doubt that these meetings encourage mothers to know and use their own health services, and also give them an opportunity of making new friends and helping each other.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Administration

- (a) The Health Committee is responsible for the service.
- (b) The Medical Officer of Health and one authorised officer form the staff of the Mental Health Service in the Burgh.
- (c) Mental patients on probation from Mental Hospitals or on licence from institutions for Mental Defectives are supervised by the Medical Officer of Health and the authorised officer. The cases are visited each quarter by the Medical Officer, and each half year by the authorised officer.
- (d) No duties are delegated to Voluntary Associations.

Account of work undertaken in the community

- (a) At the request of the general practitioner the medical officer and the authorised officer visit and interview patients who are mentally ill and every endeavour is made to encourage suitable cases to enter the mental hospitals as voluntary patients. The closest liaison is maintained between the mental specialist staff and the staff of the local health authority.

(b) The authorised officer makes arrangements for the care and treatment of persons apparently of unsound mind who have no relatives or friends willing to do so.

On communication from the general practitioner in attendance on the patient, the Medical Officer of Health and the authorised officer visit the case. On medical certification, the authorised officer proceeds by way of Petition to the Sheriff and co-operates with the ambulance service provided by the Regional Hospital Board for the removal of certified persons to a mental hospital. Intimation of the certification is made to the General Board of Control. All necessary steps are taken to safeguard the property of persons committed to mental hospitals or certified institutions for defectives.

Home conditions are investigated where it is proposed to discharge a mental patient from hospital, and supervision of the patient is undertaken during the period of probation.

A register is kept of all lunatics and mental defectives coming to the knowledge of the Authorised Officer and all necessary steps are taken for the supervision of their welfare.

(c) (i) On intimation of any case of mental deficiency from medical practitioner, relatives, or other source, the Authorised Officer contacts the Certifying Medical Practitioner approved by the General Board of Control, and the Medical Officer of Health; after certification the consent of the General Board of Control is sought either to have the defective removed to an institution or placed under guardianship.

(ii) In the event of the mental defective being placed under guardianship, the welfare of the said defective is supervised by the Authorised Officer. Visitation is made by the Medical Officer of Health every three months, and by the Authorised Officer half yearly.

(iii) So far no arrangements have been made for the provision of training or occupation for defectives in this area.

(1) **Mental Disorder.**

At 1st January, 1956, there were 73 cases of lunacy on the roll of the Burgh. During the year 14 new cases were added to the list; 4 died, while 10 recovered and were discharged, leaving a total of 73 who are being cared for in mental institutions at 31st December, 1956. Eight of the cases entered the mental hospitals as voluntary patients. Of the cases receiving institutional treatment 68 are in Hartwood Mental Hospital, 3 in Kirklands Institution, 1 in Gartloch Mental Hospital, Glasgow, and 1 in Woodilee.

(2) **Mental Deficiency.**

At 31st December, 1956, there were 24 cases of mental deficiency on the roll of the Burgh and they were dealt with as follows:—

(a) In institutions:—

	M.	F.	Tl.
Kirklands Institution for mental defectives	2	3	5
Birkwood Institution for mental defectives	5	0	5
Larbert Institution for mental defectives	1	—	1
St. Joseph's Institution for mental defectives	1	—	1
	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 12

(b) Under guardianship in private dwellings:—

	M.	F.	Tl.
Boarded out in private dwellings - -	7	5	12

The age distribution of the 24 cases suffering from mental deficiency is as follows:—

2-10	11-15	16-21	22-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	60+	Sex		Total
								M.	F.	
1	1	2	7	6	4	1	2	16	8	24

BLIND PERSONS

At 1st January, 1956, the total number of blind persons registered in the Burgh was 42. Four new cases were registered during the year and 3 died, leaving a total of 43 cases on the Register at 31st December, 1956. Four males are employed in the Glasgow Royal Asylum for the Blind, one as a home teacher, and one as a music lecturer. There are no females in employment.

The blind persons fall into the following age groups:—

	1-17	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-69	70 and over	Total
Male	1	0	0	4	7	8	20
Female	1	0	1	2	7	12	23
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 14	<hr/> 20	<hr/> 43

Ten Blind Persons were supplied with Free Travel Passes.

WELFARE SERVICE

(a) Residential Accommodation.

At 1st January, 1956, there were 9 persons in residential accommodation outwith the Burgh. At 31st December, 1956, the figure was 10.

	A G E G R O U P S				Male	Total	
	51-60	61-70	71-80	80+		Female	Total
Forresthall, Glasgow	1	—	—	1	1	1	2
Auchenbothie House, Port Glasgow	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
Eventide Home, Burnside	—	—	—	4	—	4	4
Methlan Park, Dumbarton	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
Cairnhill Home	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
	1	1	2	5	4	5	9

BLAIRTUM PARK HOUSE

The admissions, discharges and deaths during the year 1956 were as follows:—

	M.	F.	Tl.
No. of residents at 31st December, 1955	10	9	19
No. of admissions during 1956	3	6	9
	13	15	28
	M.	F.	Tl.
No. transferred to hospital	—	1	1
No. left of own accord	1	5	6
Number died	1	—	1
	2	6	8
Total number of residents at 31st December, 1956	11	9	20

(b) Registration and Inspection of Disabled or Old Persons Homes.

No action was taken under this heading.

(c) Removal of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.

No action was taken under this heading.

(d) Care of Property.

No action was required under this heading.

(e) Interments.

The Welfare Department arranged for the interment of a woman, the cost of which was recovered from a relative in England.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948 INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Notices Written	Verbal	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	17	20	1	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	122	163	4	20	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority† (excluding out-workers' premises)	21	54	—	28	—
TOTAL	160	237	5	49	—

† i.e. Electric Stations [Section 103 (1)], Institutions. (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Section 107 and 108).

The following Table gives particulars regarding cases in which Defects were found:—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found		By H.M.	
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Inspector
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.) ...	25	25	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—				
(a) Insufficient ...	27	27	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	54	54	—	—

